

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:**

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1823: Appropriation; Education, Department of.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

- 1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- 2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

6           **SECTION 1.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as  
7 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in the State  
8 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of  
9 funding K-12 and other related educational activities, including  
10 certain agencies and programs, in the State of Mississippi, for  
11 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025,  
12 as follows:

13           (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
14 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education, and  
15 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education  
16 Division.....\$ 128,471,455.00.

17           (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
18 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education  
19 Division of the State Department of Education.....



20 .....\$ 86,549,969.00.

21 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
22 paying annual compensation to the Chickasaw Cession counties for  
23 sixteenth section lands which they lost through sale by the state,  
24 as provided in Sections 29-3-137 through 29-3-141, Mississippi  
25 Code of 1972.....\$ 15,223,869.00.

26 (d) To the State Board of Education for defraying the  
27 expenses of the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.....  
28 .....\$ 2,690,627,163.00.

29 TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED  
30 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,920,872,456.00.

31 **SECTION 2.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as  
32 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in any special  
33 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or  
34 funds of the agencies or programs specified in the following  
35 paragraphs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
36 June 30, 2025, as follows:

37 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
38 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education,  
39 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education  
40 Division.....\$ 1,995,418,401.00.

41 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
42 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education  
43 Division of the State Department of Education.....  
44 .....\$ 22,718,189.00.



45 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
46 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.  
47 .....\$ 268,025,562.00.

48 TOTAL AMOUNT OF SPECIAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED  
49 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,286,162,152.00.

50 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One  
51 Hundred Twenty-six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-two Dollars  
52 (\$126,472.00), or so much of that sum as may be necessary, is  
53 appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit  
54 of the Health Care Expendable Fund to the State Department of  
55 Education for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the  
56 department for the Mississippi Eye Screening Program for providing  
57 vision safety services.

58 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, the  
59 following sums, or so much of those sums as may be necessary, are  
60 derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of  
61 the Education Enhancement Fund pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and  
62 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, as follows:

63 (a) To the State Department of Education, excluding the  
64 expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division, for  
65 the following purposes:

66 Literacy Initiative and Assessment.....\$ 6,805,774.00  
67 Educable Child.....\$ 9,500,000.00  
68 Grants to school districts for  
69 capital facilities and buses.....\$ 16,000,000.00



70	Instructional materials.....	\$ 25,000,000.00
71	Students with Special Needs.....	\$ 1,800,000.00
72	Implementing Performance-Based Data	
73	Collection and Accreditation	
74	Model.....	\$ 274,937.00
75	Testing.....	\$ 6,125,670.00
76	Mississippi School for Math and	
77	Science.....	\$ 1,131,000.00
78	Mississippi School for Fine Arts. ....	\$ 927,632.00
79	Early Learning Collaboratives.....	\$ 21,210,526.00
80	Other Early Learning Programs.....	\$ 13,000,000.00
81	Early Learning Coaches.....	\$ 3,251,533.00
82	Math Coaches.....	\$ 5,000,000.00
83	WorkKeys.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
84	Advanced Placement, Dual Credits,	
85	International Baccalaureate,	
86	Cambridge Diploma Endorsements.....	\$ 300,000.00
87	Vocational Technical Grants.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
88	Mississippi School for the Deaf	
89	and Blind.....	\$ 1,557,037.00
90	TOTAL.....	\$ 113,884,109.00
91	(b) To the State Department of Education to defray the	
92	expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division.....	
93	.....	\$ 6,637,258.00.



94 (c) To the State Department of Education to provide  
95 funding for the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.....  
96 .....\$ 268,025,562.00.

97 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, the  
98 following positions are authorized for the State Department of  
99 Education, excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical  
100 Education Division:

101 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

102 Permanent: 329  
103 Time-Limited: 124

104 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
105 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
106 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds  
107 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
108 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
109 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's  
110 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board  
111 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may  
112 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year  
113 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024  
114 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that  
115 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount  
116 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments  
117 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current  
118 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee



119 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the  
120 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

121         Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
122 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
123 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
124 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
125 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
126 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the  
127 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the  
128 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
129 essential for the agency.

130         Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
131 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
132 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
133 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
134 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
135 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
136 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
137 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
138 appropriated level.

139         No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be  
140 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for  
141 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are  
142 withdrawn and no longer available.



143 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in  
144 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A  
145 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as  
146 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

147 **SECTION 6.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance  
148 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of  
149 the Legislature that the funds provided in this act shall be  
150 utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to  
151 achieve the intended mission of the State Department of Education,  
152 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education  
153 Division. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make  
154 every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided  
155 below:

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
158 Special Education	
159 Number of Special Education Teachers (FTE)	5,963
160 Number of Gifted Education Teachers	730
161 Percent Increase of Children with	
162 Disabilities in General Education Early	
163 Childhood Programs while Decreasing the	
164 Percent in Self-Contained Special	
165 Education Early Childhood Classrooms	76.00
166 General Administration	
167 Total Dollars Spent on General	



168	Administration	19,250,220.00
169	Percent of Total Budget Spent on General	
170	Administration	15.70
171	Create a Public-Facing Data System for	
172	All Stakeholders	100.00
173	Create a User-Friendly Website for the	
174	Public and School Districts to Access	
175	Data to Make Decisions	100.00
176	Create a Roadmap to Improve the	
177	Mississippi Student Information System	100.00
178	Number of Research Results Published to	
179	Support Improved Student Outcomes and	
180	Teacher Effectiveness	9
181	Graduation & Career Readiness	
182	Percent Increase of Students Graduating	
183	from High School Ready for College or	
184	Career in Each Subgroup	100.00
185	Early Childhood Education	
186	Percent Increase of Kindergarten	
187	Students Achieving End-Of-Year Target	
188	Score on Kindergarten Readiness	
189	Post-Test	69.74
190	Percent Increase of Early Learning	
191	Collaborative Sites Meeting Required	
192	Rate of Readiness	95.95





193	Number of Students Enrolled in Title I	
194	or Locally Funded Pre-K Classes	8,778
195	Teacher Tng & Professional Dev	
196	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
197	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
198	That Are High Poverty	31.00
199	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
200	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
201	That Are High Minority	35.00
202	Percent Increase of Districts Reporting	
203	Professional Growth System (PGS) Ratings	
204	for Teachers and Leaders	96.00
205	Percent Increase of Teacher Candidates	
206	Passing Licensure Exams on the First	
207	Attempt	45.00
208	Increase the Number of Licensed, Diverse	
209	Teachers and Leaders	35.00
210	Elementary Education	
211	Percent Increase of Students who Pass	
212	the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment at the	
213	First Administration in Each Subgroup	80.00
214	Secondary Education	
215	Increase the Number of Students	
216	Participating in and Passing Advanced	
217	Placement (AP), International	



218	Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Exams	
219	in Each Subgroup	37.00
220	Percent Increase of Students Ready for	
221	College as Measured by Meeting ACT	
222	Benchmarks in Each Content Area (Public	
223	School Class Data, Grade 11)	11.00
224	Assessment & Development	
225	Increase the Percent of Students	
226	Proficient (Levels 4-5) on Statewide	
227	Assessments (Grades 3-8 & High School	
228	Composite) in Each Subgroup	53.00
229	Decrease the Percent of Students Scoring	
230	Levels 1-3 on Statewide Assessments in	
231	Each Subgroup	47.00
232	Increase Percent of Pre-Kindergarten	
233	Students in Public Schools Attaining	
234	Kindergarten Readiness on the Pre-K	
235	End-Of-Year Assessment	72.00
236	School Performance	
237	Percent of Schools Rated "C" or Higher	85.00
238	Percent of Districts Rated "C" or Higher	85.00
239	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
240	on Statewide ELA Assessments in Each	
241	Subgroup	70.00
242	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	



243	on Statewide Math Assessments in Each	
244	Subgroup	75.00
245	Percent of Students Participating in	
246	Dual Credit in Each Subgroup	60.00
247	Percent of Students Passing Dual Credit	
248	in Each Subgroup	98.00
249	Increase the Growth of D and F Districts	
250	Demonstrating Growth, by Improving the	
251	Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
252	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	80.00
253	Increase the Growth of D and F Schools	
254	by Improving the Letter Grade and/or	
255	Increasing the Number of Points within a	
256	Letter Grade	80.00
257	Increase the Growth of Districts of	
258	Transformation by Improving the Letter	
259	Grade and/or Increasing the Number of	
260	Points within a Letter Grade	100.00
261	Increase the Growth of Schools Under	
262	Districts of Transformation by Improving	
263	the Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
264	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	100.00
265	Decrease the Number of High Schools	
266	Rated D or F	40.00



267 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets  
268 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the  
269 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget  
270 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

271 **SECTION 7.** No school district shall expend any funds,  
272 received under the School Ad Valorem Reduction Grant, unless such  
273 school district has specifically identified the amount of the  
274 grant within the published budget as required by Section 37-61-9,  
275 Mississippi Code of 1972. The published budget shall include the  
276 following statement: "Ad Valorem taxes will be \$\_\_\_\_\_ less as  
277 a result of the Ad Valorem Reduction Grants enacted by the  
278 Mississippi Legislature in 1992."

279 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, funds in  
280 the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from  
281 income derived from the principal of the Education Improvement  
282 Trust Fund created by Section 206A, Mississippi Constitution of  
283 1890, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be used for  
284 the School for Math and Science.

285 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
286 this act, the following positions are authorized for the  
287 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State  
288 Department of Education:

289 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

290 Permanent: 48

291 Time-Limited: 5



292 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
293 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
294 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds  
295 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
296 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
297 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's  
298 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board  
299 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may  
300 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year  
301 2025 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2024  
302 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that  
303 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount  
304 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments  
305 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current  
306 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee  
307 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the  
308 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

309 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and  
310 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current  
311 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to  
312 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do  
313 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If  
314 the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 projected cost exceeds the  
315 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the



316 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be  
317 essential for the agency.

318 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
319 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
320 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
321 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
322 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
323 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
324 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
325 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
326 appropriated level.

327 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be  
328 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for  
329 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are  
330 withdrawn and no longer available.

331 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in  
332 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A  
333 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as  
334 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

335 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount  
336 not to exceed One Million Twenty-three Thousand Five Hundred  
337 Seventy-four Dollars (\$1,023,574.00) is authorized for the support  
338 of vocational and technical education programs as authorized in  
339 Section 37-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, for a period in excess  
340 of ten (10) months in a calendar year.



341           **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
342 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State  
343 Department of Education shall, with the funds appropriated in  
344 Section 1, transfer no more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars  
345 (\$75,000.00) to the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation  
346 Commission for the purpose of providing matching funds to purchase  
347 soil conservation equipment.

348           **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, no more  
349 than One Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00) is  
350 provided for the purpose of supporting the Future Farmers of  
351 America Center.

352           **SECTION 13.** The State Department of Education shall transfer  
353 the designated amounts to the appropriate entities, which shall  
354 assume full responsibility for the expenditure of these funds in  
355 accordance with state laws and accept all responsibility for any  
356 improper expenditure, for the following:

357	Detention Centers.....	\$	3,000,000.00.
358	Dyslexia Program.....	\$	225,000.00.
359	Amplify Data Coaching.....	\$	800,000.00.
360	Magnolia Speech School.....	\$	1,000,000.00.
361	Sight Savers.....	\$	375,000.00.
362	Teach for America.....	\$	860,000.00.
363	Teacher Corp and Principal Corp.....	\$	300,000.00.
364	Vision Screening Research.....	\$	225,000.00.
365	Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia.....	\$	200,000,00.



366	Algebra Nation.....	\$	1,100,000.00.
367	Mississippi Construction Education Program.....	\$	212,500.00.
368	T. K. Martin Center.....	\$	100,000.00.
369	JumpStart Act.....	\$	250,000.00.
370	Mastery Prep.....	\$	200,000.00.
371	Arts for All Mississippi.....	\$	40,000.00.
372	TOTAL.....	\$	8,887,500.00.

373           **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of  
374 the funds provided for Other Early Learning Programs in Section  
375 4(a), Thirteen Million Dollars (\$13,000,000.00) is included for  
376 the Mississippi Department of Education to provide grant  
377 opportunities for Other Early Learning Programs through public  
378 schools including other public school preschool programs not  
379 participating in Early Learning Collaboratives.

380           **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount  
381 not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars  
382 (\$1,500,000.00) shall be used for technological methods for  
383 agricultural programs, computer science, engineering or robotic  
384 engineering programs and equipment upgrades and Mississippi  
385 Elementary (ME) STEM and STEAM programs from the Career and  
386 Technical Education Division of the State Department of Education.  
387 All programs must meet Mississippi Science Standards and/or  
388 College and Career Standards.

389           Of the funds appropriated in this section, an amount not to  
390 exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be distributed to





391 the Mississippi State University Center for Cyber Education and  
392 used for computer science programs development and teacher  
393 training for elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools  
394 for the purpose of developing K-12 computer science curricula,  
395 including both academic and career and technical education  
396 programs, developing and delivering teacher training, and working  
397 with the State Board of Education and Institutions of Higher  
398 Learning in the state to develop teacher preparation programs for  
399 computer science endorsements. All programs must meet the 2018  
400 Mississippi Computer Science Standards and/or Mississippi College  
401 and Career Standards.

402       **SECTION 16.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2(a) of  
403 this act, Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$550,000.00), or so  
404 much thereof, shall be derived out of any money in the State  
405 Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in  
406 Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a  
407 manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office. Of these funds,  
408 Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is provided for  
409 program and equipment upgrades at the Mississippi Elementary (ME)  
410 STEM and STEAM programs from the Career and Technical Education  
411 Division of the State Department of Education. Additionally, Fifty  
412 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) is provided for the Mississippi  
413 Future Farmers of America Center.

414       **SECTION 17.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
415 computer science courses may be taught by certified teacher or for



416 elementary level classes, computer science courses may be taught  
417 by teachers who are trained by the district in computer science  
418 instruction.

419       **SECTION 18.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, the sum  
420 of Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-one Dollars (\$62,191.00),  
421 which is the aggregate sum that the school districts in the  
422 Chickasaw Cession receive annually from interest payments from the  
423 Chickasaw School Fund under Section 212, Mississippi Constitution  
424 of 1890, shall be deducted from the allocations to the school  
425 districts as provided in Section 29-3-137, Mississippi Code of  
426 1972, and shall be distributed among the school districts in the  
427 Chickasaw Cession by the State Department of Education in the  
428 manner that those interest payments were distributed during Fiscal  
429 Year 1985.

430       **SECTION 19.** Of the funds provided in this act for the  
431 purpose of funding the Mississippi Student Funding Formula, the  
432 Student Base Amount in Fiscal Year 2025 shall be Six Thousand Six  
433 Hundred Ninety-five Dollars and Thirty-four Cents (\$6,695.34).

434       **SECTION 20.** With the funds provided in this act, it is the  
435 intention of the Legislature that School Attendance Officers and  
436 academic teachers at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the  
437 Mississippi School for the Blind shall receive their annual  
438 increment.

439       **SECTION 21.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
440 State Board of Education shall maintain complete accounting and



441 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
442 appropriated in this act and that those records shall be in the  
443 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
444 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
445 budget requests for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to the  
446 Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail  
447 comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the  
448 Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process for each agency and  
449 institution appropriated funds within the provisions of this act.

450       **SECTION 22.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) to the  
451 State Board of Education, not less than Twenty-three Million  
452 Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$23,080,000.00) shall be used for  
453 National Board Certification. Of this amount, Seven Hundred  
454 Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be used for the World Class  
455 Teacher Program providing instruction and assistance to teachers  
456 seeking National Board Certification.

457       **SECTION 23.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and  
458 Section 4(a) not less than Seventeen Million Five Hundred  
459 Fifty-eight Thousand Dollars (\$17,558,000.00) shall be used for  
460 the Educable Child Program. It is the intention of the  
461 Legislature that the State Board of Education shall allocate  
462 funding for the Educable Child Program based upon a recalculated  
463 formula in a manner to include only those billable days funded  
464 through appropriation of state funds and not District funds. It  
465 is the intent of the Legislature that the Educable Child funds



466 shall be exempt from budget cuts made to the Department of  
467 Education by the Legislature and/or the Office of the Governor.

468         **SECTION 24.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and  
469 Section 4(a), not less than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00)  
470 shall be used for the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) Program.  
471 It is the intent of the Legislature that the Education Scholarship  
472 Account (ESA) funds shall not be reduced by the State Department  
473 of Education and/or the Office of the Governor.

474         **SECTION 25.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a),  
475 Twelve Million Five Hundred Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty  
476 Dollars (\$12,513,420.00) is provided to fund the health insurance  
477 premium increase for all public school teachers.

478         **SECTION 26.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) of  
479 this act, Eight Million Four Hundred Twenty-seven Thousand Six  
480 Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$8,427,614.00) is provided to fund a  
481 one-half (1/2) percent increase in the employer portion of the  
482 Public Employees' Retirement System for all public school  
483 teachers.

484         **SECTION 27.** The public school districts of the state are  
485 authorized at their discretion to pay with local funds one hundred  
486 percent (100%) of the cost of the health insurance premiums of the  
487 State and School Employees Health Insurance Plan for all retired  
488 members of the Public Employees' Retirement System who are  
489 employed as school bus drivers by the school districts. It is the



490 intention of the Legislature that no state funds shall be used for  
491 this purpose.

492         **SECTION 28.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
493 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
494 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
495 stated in those received bids are equal with respect to price,  
496 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
497 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
498 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
499 made without competitive bids.

500         **SECTION 29.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, not less  
501 than Six Million Four Hundred Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred  
502 Ninety-eight Dollars (\$6,414,898.00) shall be used for the  
503 Compulsory School Attendance Office and School Attendance  
504 Officers.

505         **SECTION 30.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, it is the  
506 intention of the Legislature that Three Million Sixty Thousand  
507 Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) shall be used for the Mary  
508 Kirkpatrick-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program. The  
509 amount of Three Million Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) is  
510 provided from the Department of Health.

511         **SECTION 31.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
512 State Board of Education shall charge a fee for room and board for  
513 students who enroll in the Mississippi School for Mathematics and  
514 Science and the Mississippi School of Arts. Such fees will be



515 waived for any student enrolled in the State Children's Health  
516 Insurance Program. The amount of such fees shall be Five Hundred  
517 Dollars (\$500.00) for each semester.

518 **SECTION 32.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each  
519 eligible employee who meets the National Board requirements under  
520 Section 37-19-7(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be paid the  
521 full supplement and that such supplement shall be included on a  
522 prorated basis in the employee's monthly paycheck.

523 **SECTION 33.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
524 Mississippi Department of Education may loan any general or  
525 special source fund amount, not to exceed Five Million Dollars  
526 (\$5,000,000.00), to any school district for the purpose of  
527 providing funds to school districts through the Emergency  
528 Assistance Fund as outlined in Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code  
529 of 1972, during the period beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
530 June 30, 2025. The school districts receiving these loans shall  
531 repay the Mississippi Department of Education the amount of the  
532 loan on or before June 30, 2025.

533 **SECTION 34.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Seven  
534 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be transferred to the  
535 Board of Health no later than December 31, 2024.

536 **SECTION 35.** Any school district receiving funds through Save  
537 the Children may provide a ten percent (10%) match from local  
538 funds for implementation of the program.



539           **SECTION 36.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two  
540 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is provided for the Mississippi  
541 Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant  
542 program. A portion of these funds not to exceed one percent (1%)  
543 may be used for training and administrative costs related to  
544 oversight and auditing of the program.

545           **SECTION 37.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and  
546 Section 2(a), Twenty-nine Million Dollars (\$29,000,000.00) is  
547 provided for an Early Childhood Education Initiative program. The  
548 funding shall be provided to early learning collaboratives in  
549 Fiscal Year 2025 as follows: no less than Two Thousand Five  
550 Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) per student in a full-day program and  
551 no less than One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00)  
552 per student in a half-day program. Funds must be matched as  
553 provided by Section 37-21-51, Mississippi Code of 1972.

554           **SECTION 38.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and  
555 Section 4(a), Fifteen Million Ninety-four Thousand Five Hundred  
556 Dollars (\$15,094,500.00) shall be used for the Literacy Initiative  
557 and Assessment and monitoring and evaluating the adoption and  
558 implementation of high-quality instructional materials that have  
559 been reviewed through the approved state process and distributed  
560 through regional textbook depository as outlined in Section  
561 37-43-23, Mississippi Code of 1972.



562           **SECTION 39.** Of the funds appropriated herein, funding is  
563 provided for the ACT test, which is the college readiness portion  
564 of the state accountability model.

565           **SECTION 40.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two  
566 Million Seven Hundred Thirty-four Thousand Sixty-four Dollars  
567 (\$2,734,064.00) shall be used for the Mississippi School of the  
568 Arts and Four Million Ten Thousand Two Hundred Ten Dollars  
569 (\$4,010,210.00) shall be used for the Mississippi School for  
570 Mathematics and Science. It is the intention of the Legislature  
571 that of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) for the Mississippi  
572 School of the Arts, One Million Three Hundred Sixty-seven Thousand  
573 Thirty-two Dollars (\$1,367,032.00) shall be paid to the school no  
574 later than July 10, 2024, and One Million Three Hundred  
575 Sixty-seven Thousand Thirty-two Dollars (\$1,367,032.00 shall be  
576 paid no later than January 10, 2025. All funds appropriated from  
577 Section 4(a) for the Mississippi School of the Arts shall be paid  
578 to the school each month within ten (10) working days after such  
579 amount was received by the Department of Education. It is the  
580 intention of the Legislature that the State Board of Education  
581 shall not reduce the appropriated amounts provided in this act for  
582 the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Mississippi School for  
583 Mathematics and Science.

584           **SECTION 41.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) and  
585 Section 2(b), Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is  
586 provided for career and technical grants to schools for qualified





587 students as authorized by Section 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of  
588 1972.

589       **SECTION 42.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, the  
590 following amounts shall be available to the Schools for the Blind  
591 and Deaf: Ten Million Four Hundred Eighty-four Thousand Three  
592 Hundred Twenty-three Dollars (\$10,484,323.00) from Section 1(a),  
593 One Million Five Hundred Fifty-seven Thousand Thirty-seven Dollars  
594 (\$1,557,037.00) from Section 4(a), and Two Million Four Hundred  
595 Fifty-nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-five Dollars  
596 (\$2,459,725.00) from Section 2(a).

597       **SECTION 43.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) of this  
598 act, One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000.00) is  
599 provided for the continuation of a school mapping program.

600       **SECTION 44.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount  
601 not to exceed Four Million One Hundred Seventy-one Thousand Three  
602 Hundred One Dollars (\$4,171,301.00) is authorized to fully fund  
603 the contract between the Department of Education and the Research  
604 & Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to fund career  
605 and technical curricula, services to secondary schools and career  
606 and technical assessments.

607       **SECTION 45.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) to the  
608 State Board of Education, Five Hundred Sixty-two Thousand Nine  
609 Hundred Ninety-nine Dollars (\$562,999.00) is provided for  
610 secondary career and technical education instructors teaching at  
611 post-secondary institutions.



612           **SECTION 46.** In addition to all other funds appropriated  
613 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,  
614 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to  
615 the credit of the Charter School Authorizer Board for operational  
616 expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
617 June 30, 2025.....\$ 1,400,000.00.

618           **SECTION 47.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b), One  
619 Million Four Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-two  
620 Dollars (\$1,432,872.00) shall be provided for new Career and  
621 Technical Education Programs as determined by the Division of  
622 Vocational and Technical Education at the Mississippi Department  
623 of Education. Of the funds appropriated to the department for  
624 these programs, no amount shall be expended by the department to  
625 defray administrative costs.

626           **SECTION 48.** The Mississippi Department of Education shall  
627 provide an annual report detailing the funding of industry  
628 certifications and the anticipated industry certifications that  
629 will be achieved in the upcoming fiscal year to the Legislative  
630 Budget Office and the Legislature no later than January 15, 2025.

631           **SECTION 49.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2(a) of  
632 this act, One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars  
633 (\$1,500,000.00), or so much thereof, shall be derived out of any  
634 money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Capital Expense  
635 Fund, as created in Section 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
636 and allocated in a manner as determined by the Treasurer's Office.



637 These funds are provided for repairs and renovations at the  
638 Mississippi School for Math and Science.

639 **SECTION 50.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2(a) of  
640 this act, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00), or so much  
641 thereof, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury  
642 to the credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section  
643 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as  
644 determined by the Treasurer's Office. These funds are provided as  
645 initial operational funding for The Deer Creek Promise Community.

646 **SECTION 51.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
647 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education  
648 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Mississippi  
649 Department of Education for the purpose of reauthorizing the  
650 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House  
651 Bill No. 1613, 2023 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning  
652 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 12,915,973.00.

653 This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing  
654 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

- 655 (a) Instructional Materials.....\$ 2,540,973.00.
- 656 (b) Early Learning Collaboratives.....\$ 3,000,000.00.
- 657 (c) Other Early Learning Programs.....\$ 7,375,000.00.

658 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
659 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
660 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
661 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the



662 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
663 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

664       **SECTION 52.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each  
665 eligible professional school counselor employee who meets the year  
666 of teaching experience requirements under Section 37-151-5(m),  
667 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be considered having a year of  
668 experience for purposes of the annual experience salary increment.

669       **SECTION 53.** The money appropriated in this act shall be paid  
670 by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or  
671 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State  
672 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his  
673 warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or  
674 officers in the manner provided by law.

675       **SECTION 54.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
676 and after July 1, 2024.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1       AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING  
2 K-12 AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CERTAIN  
3 AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS, IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, FOR THE FISCAL  
4 YEAR 2025.



CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Oliver

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Roberson

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
DeBar

X (SIGNED)  
Blackwell

